

The Forgotten Jesus Podcast

S7E7

The Downward Progression Of Turning Away - Psalm 1:1-6

Description – Today we're going to look at Psalm 1 and the word pictures that we can draw out of it.

Today on the podcast we're going to get into Psalm 1... Maybe...

But first, our condolences to Hulk Hogan and his family on his passing into eternity.

We're almost through the introduction to the sermon on the mount. We're looking at Psalm 1, trying to determine what the word "makarios" means - "Blessed"

As a recap: The Hebrew bible is divided into three parts that make up the TaNaK.

1. Torah - The Law
2. Nevi'im - The Prophets
3. Ketuvim - The Writings

Last week we looked at the Nevi'im, the prophets which starts with Joshua. Remember, we discussed the importance of Joshua 1:8, "8 This book of instruction must not depart from your mouth; you are to meditate on it day and night so that you may carefully observe everything written in it. For then you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do."

You will be successful when you meditate and study on the Law of God. Then you will prosper.

Psalm 1:1-2

¹ How happy is the one who does not walk in the advice of the wicked or stand in the pathway with sinners or sit in the company of mockers! ² Instead, his delight is in the LORD's instruction, and he meditates on it day and night.

Its a little confusing here where the psalmist starts with the inverse of what you would expect. He says, You'll be happy / blessed if you DONT do these things:

Remember, the Jewish culture thought in word pictures.

Blessed is the man who DOES NOT:

(Image #1 - Walk in the counsel of the wicked)

Walking is an important motif in scripture. God walked in the garden in the cool of the day, he walked with the people in the wilderness, Moses walked with God, Jesus when he called the disciples said, "Come, follow me."

The picture here is you're walking, which is the Christian life, but that leads to:

(Image #2 - Stand in the way of sinners)

So you've stopped walking and have stood with people who practice sin, who stand opposed to God and His ways. These people have become your influences, and you begin to sin against God.

1 Corinthians 15:33

³³ Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."

When you hang around and linger with the wrong crowd, the wrong people, you will head down a path to a point of no return.

Someone once said that the Devil switches the price tag when you go to pay. Right at the moment when you think you're getting a deal, your enemy will pull the rug out from under you and you're paying much more than you ever wanted to for your sin.

Which leads to the third image:

(Image #3 - Sit in the seat of mockers.)

So you've gone from walking, to standing to now sitting with and affirming those who are openly mocking and rebelling against God.

So instead of doing these things, you (v.2) meditate on God's law, God's instructions, the Word of God day and night.

God is saying you need to put up parameters to protect you and your life, you and your family.

"Blessed" - you've received the grace and are happy about the grace given to you.

Walk - you're not walking with the wicked, or getting advice from the wicked.

Stand - you've stopped moving. You're listening to bad counsel and you're stuck.

Sit - You're not even standing anymore. You've sat down from standing. So now you begin to mock God just like the scoffers, the mockers.

Psalm 1:3

³ He is like a tree planted beside flowing streams that bears its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

The picture here is a tree that is planted by flowing streams of water. That is what you are when you meditate on God's word day and night. The opposite, the person who walks, stands and then sits, is like chaff, that's dried up and blown away by the wind.

There's a great picture here that we sometimes miss. The word "streams" is plural. So your picture here is a tree that has two streams of flowing water on either side of it. This is not some random tree growing in the forest. "Planted" is the divine providence of God. It's His work, where he transplants you into an orchard with irrigation channels on either side of you.

You're a tree that is planted in cultivated earth, rich dirt with streams of living water to irrigate and allow you to grow.

God takes the man and woman who are meditating on His Word and says they will produce fruit, they will glorify God.

One more insight: A tree never produces fruit for itself. A tree doesn't eat the fruit it makes, the fruit is for others. You will be blessed and be a blessing to others.

Deuteronomy 28:1-6

"Now if you faithfully obey the LORD your God and are careful to follow all his commands I am giving you today, the LORD your God will put you far above all the nations of the earth. ² **All these blessings will come and overtake you, because you obey the LORD your God:** ³ **You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country.** ⁴ Your offspring will be blessed, and your land's produce, and the offspring of your livestock, including the young of your herds and the newborn of your flocks. ⁵ Your basket and kneading bowl will be blessed. ⁶ You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out.

Joshua 1:6-9

⁶ "Be strong and courageous, for you will distribute the land I swore to their ancestors to give them as an inheritance. ⁷ Above all, be strong and very courageous to observe carefully the whole instruction my servant Moses commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right or the left, so that you will have success wherever you go. ⁸ **This book of instruction must not depart from your mouth; you are to meditate on it day and night so that you may carefully observe everything written in it. For then you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do.** ⁹ Haven't I commanded you: be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."